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Around the Nation

Bush Seeks Clearer Guide On Drug-Traffic Watch

WASHINGTON, Sept. 29 (UPI)—George Bush, director of Central Intelligence, said today his agency was "not impotent," but would welcome clearer guidelines on what it could do about drug trafficking.

"There is an almost total lack of reliable, useful overseas intelligence on narcotics traffickers and their trafficking routes," Representative Lester L. Wolff, Democrat of Nassau and Queens, told the Central Intelligence Agency's chief.

Mr. Bush testified before the House Select Committee on Narcotics Control and Abuse, of which Mr. Wolff is chairman.

"One of our problems is that we must be careful to avoid what some people felt were the excesses of the past," said Mr. Bush. "We are not in the law enforcement business."

He said the C.I.A.'s primary job in narcotics was "strategic intelligence relating to international narcotics traffic such as identifying major source countries for narcotics and predominant routes for transporting narcotics."

The agency can tell the Justice Department every "piece of intelligence" it gets, Mr. Bush said. But the C.I.A. cannot give that information, if it relates to Americans, to the Cabinet-level committee supposed to coordinate narcotics control efforts.

"We are not impotent," Mr. Bush said on two occasions. But he added, "When American citizens are involved, you have to be very careful."